

ENCOUNTERS

Jesus and the Paralytic

Growth Group Opener:

What is the most creative solution you have come up with when a normal way through something was blocked?

Read Mark 2:1-12

Sometimes the people around us can either be a barrier or a carrier to reaching Jesus.

What does it mean that Jesus responded to the faith of the man's friends in v.5?

What does that tell us about belonging to a body of believers?

What might it take to be the kind of friend who carries someone else to Jesus regardless of the cost and the mess it may make?

What is the difference between being a helpful friend and being a carrying friend?

Have you ever had a friend whose faith carried you when you couldn't carry yourself?

Are you in a season of carrying someone else's faith, or a season where someone else is carrying yours? How can we receive being carried without shame?

In v7, the scribes react with correct theology, but miss the fact that the Lord is in the room with them. How is it a warning that someone might have correct theology about God, and still miss him when he shows up?

Is there somewhere in your life where you are theologically correct in an idea about God, but it is subtly keeping you from recognizing him in your actual life?

In v11, Jesus instructs the man to pick up and carry the bed that once carried him. Is there something in your life that once carried you, like a coping mechanism or story you believed about yourself, that the Lord may be asking you to pick up and carry differently, as evidence of what he has done in you?

What do we learn about God from this passage?

Is there anything you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to look at more closely?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for your grace and your forgiveness. Lord, move us if we are (even unintentionally) part of the crowd that is in the way of someone coming to you. Help us to be the kind of friend who would tear apart a roof to get someone we love close to you. Give us those kinds of friends as well, when we are the one who needs carrying. In the name of Jesus, amen.